



Hartford Accident and Indemnity Company

HOME OFFICE — HARTFORD 15, CONNECTICUT

WALLACE STEVENS
VICE-PRESIDENT

June 7, 1954.

Mr. Robert Pack
310 East 75th Street
New York 21, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Pack:

Yesterday, Sunday, I had a long afternoon to myself and spent it reading your manuscript, which I am returning today. If you have a spare copy of this I should like very much to have it. It contains many pages of extraordinary analysis. But what I particularly like about it is the fact that you cite so many poems to which other people have paid no attention. The truth is that my critics seem never to have read anything later than HARMONIUM. My own experience with HARMONIUM is that it wears well and often remains entirely fresh for me. But, after all, it was written more than thirty years ago.

It was a great pleasure to read your intelligent and responsive manuscript. Years ago George Meredith published an essay on the Comic Spirit, at least I think so, although Meredith has been in the attic for a good many years. You might be interested in looking it up.

There are many things which you say which I disagree with but that is bound to be the case and since you have avoided contentiousness in your manuscript, I shall avoid it in this letter. For instance, one's style is not necessarily a mechanism—it is a way of objectifying one's subject.

Many thanks for your kindness and patience.

With sincere best wishes, I am

Very truly yours,

WS F